

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 - 35. (cancelled)

36. (currently amended) A balloon catheter, comprising:

B¹ a) an elongated shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, a proximal shaft section, a distal shaft section, an outer tubular member defining an inflation lumen, and an inner tubular member defining a portion of a guidewire receiving lumen extending along at least a portion of the distal shaft section, and a polymeric distal tip member having a proximal end secured to a distal end of the inner tubular member to form a joint with the distal end of the inner tubular member, the distal tip member defining a distal portion of the guidewire receiving lumen in fluid communication with the portion of the guidewire receiving lumen defined by the inner tubular member and a port at the distal end of the shaft, the polymeric material of the distal tip member having a first Shore durometer hardness;

b) a balloon on the distal shaft section having a proximal shaft section bonded to the outer tubular member, a distal shaft section bonded to the inner tubular member, an inflatable section, and an interior in fluid communication with the inflation lumen; and

c) a flexible polymeric sleeve secured to the distal tip member and the inner tubular member, and disposed about the joint between the distal tip member and the

inner tubular member, and having a proximal end located distal to the distal end of the balloon, and a distal end located proximal to a distal end of the distal tip member, the polymeric material of the sleeve having a second Shore durometer hardness which is less than the first Shore durometer of the distal tip member.

37. (previously presented) The balloon catheter of claim 36 wherein the proximal end of the sleeve butts-up to the distal end of the balloon distal shaft section.

38. (previously presented) The balloon catheter of claim 36 wherein the proximal end of the distal tip member forms a butt-joint with the distal end of the inner tubular member.

39. (currently amended) The balloon catheter of claim 36 wherein the polymeric material of the sleeve is formed of a polymeric material compatible with [[a]] the polymeric material of the distal tip member and is fusion bonded thereto.

40. (new) The balloon catheter of claim 36 wherein the second Shore durometer hardness of the polymeric material of the sleeve is not less than about 40D, and the first Shore durometer hardness of the polymeric material of the distal tip member is about 55D.

41. (new) The balloon catheter of claim 36 wherein the polymeric material of the distal tip member is a polyether block amide.

42. (new) The balloon catheter of claim 36 wherein the proximal end of the distal tip member extends proximally over the distal end of the catheter shaft which extends beyond the distal balloon shaft section.